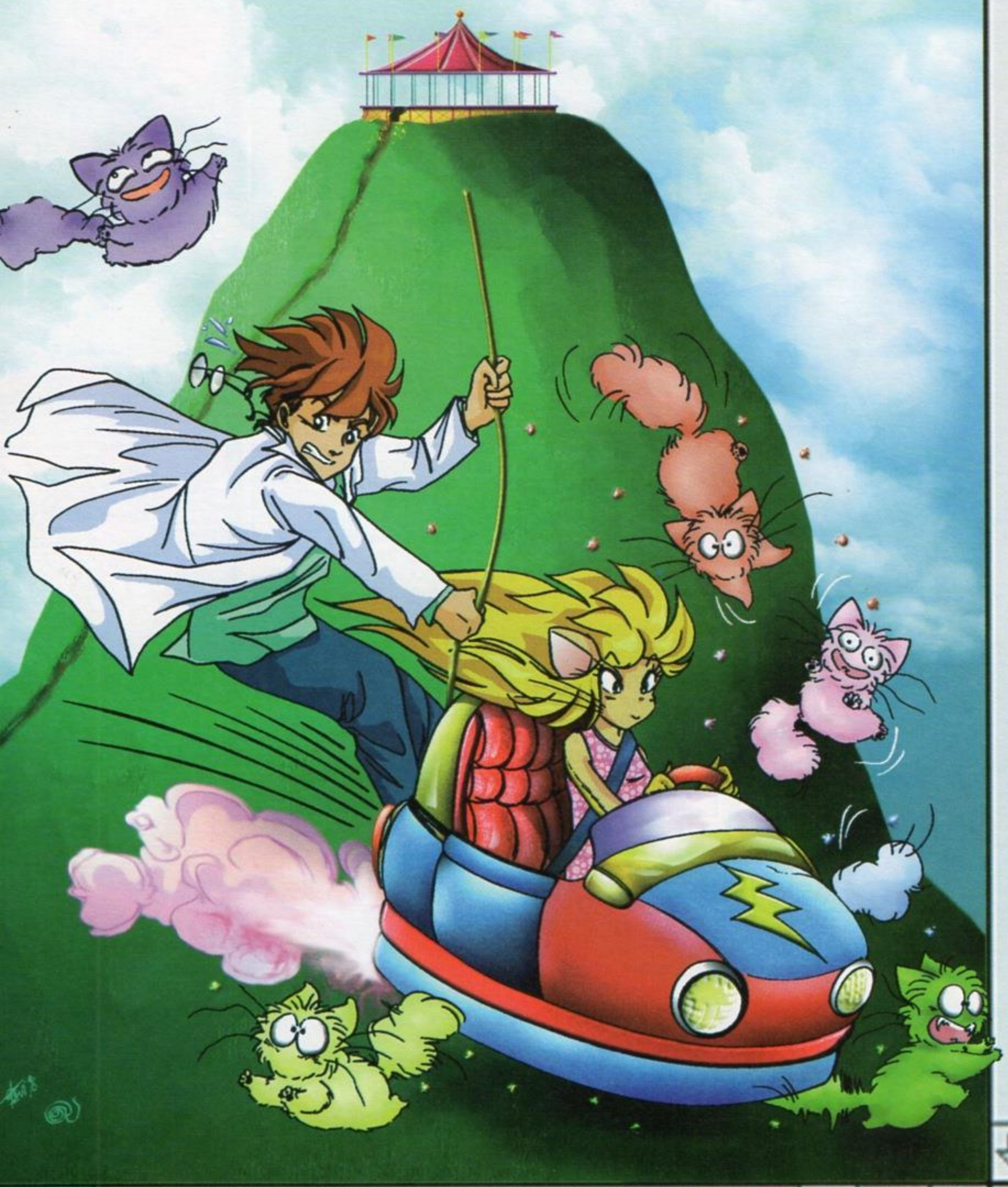
CHAPTER SIX



Intermission!

Just for a recap, here's everybody we've got so far...

Collin Meeks.
Catreece's Neurotic Virtual Internet hopping pet owner.

Catreece (online).
Spunky feline super-hacker...Er...Sort of...

Catreece (offline).
Just a normal housecat...
Yeah, right...

Maiko Uyeda.
Super Net Girl!
Collin's gal pal.

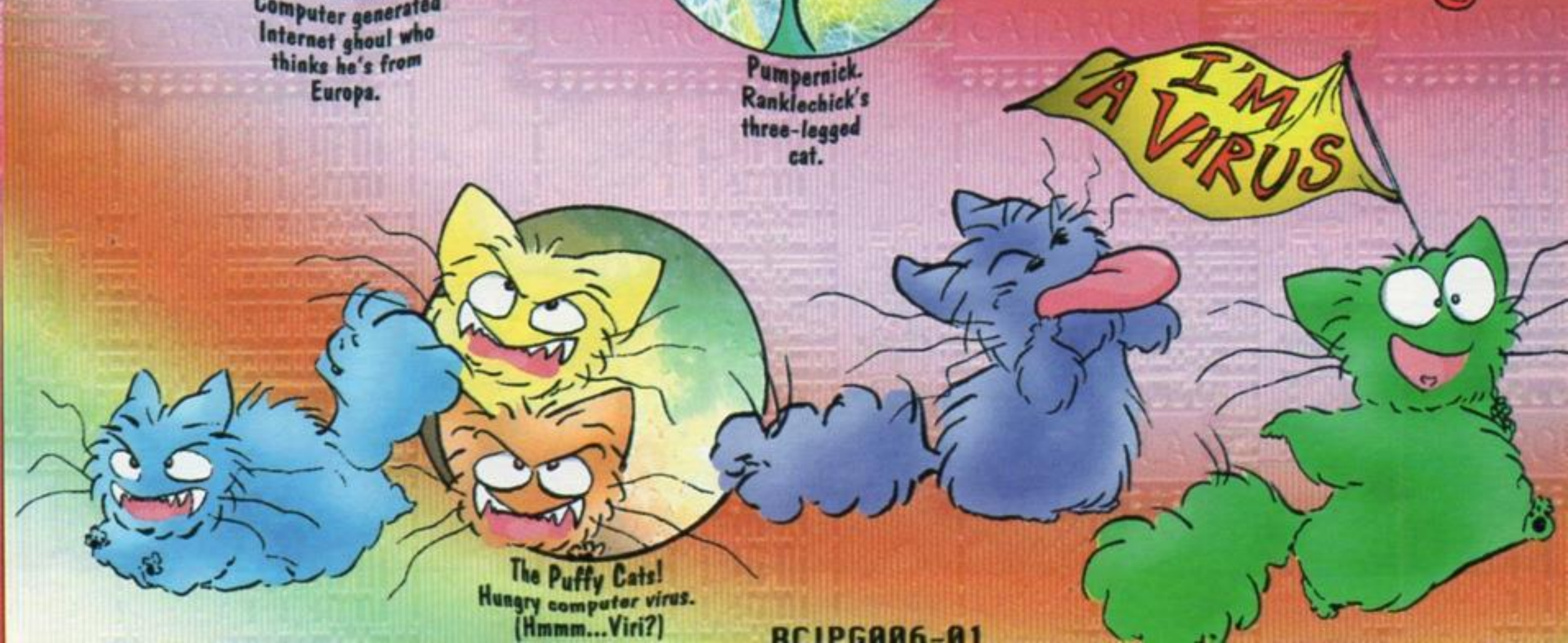
Rodney "Rod" McFadden
The interactive idiot.

Erik "Erk" Seagraves.
Collin's guy pal.
Paranoid but easily amused.

Ranklechick.
Computer generated Internet ghoul who thinks he's from Europa.

Pumpernick.
Ranklechick's three-legged cat.

La La La La Loopy!
Internet Superhero!



The Puffy Cats!
Hungry computer virus.
(Hmmm...Viri?)

They're still online...

CRASH

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

NYA

HEH!

NEE HEE HEE!

VOOM

?!

SMASH!

FFT?!

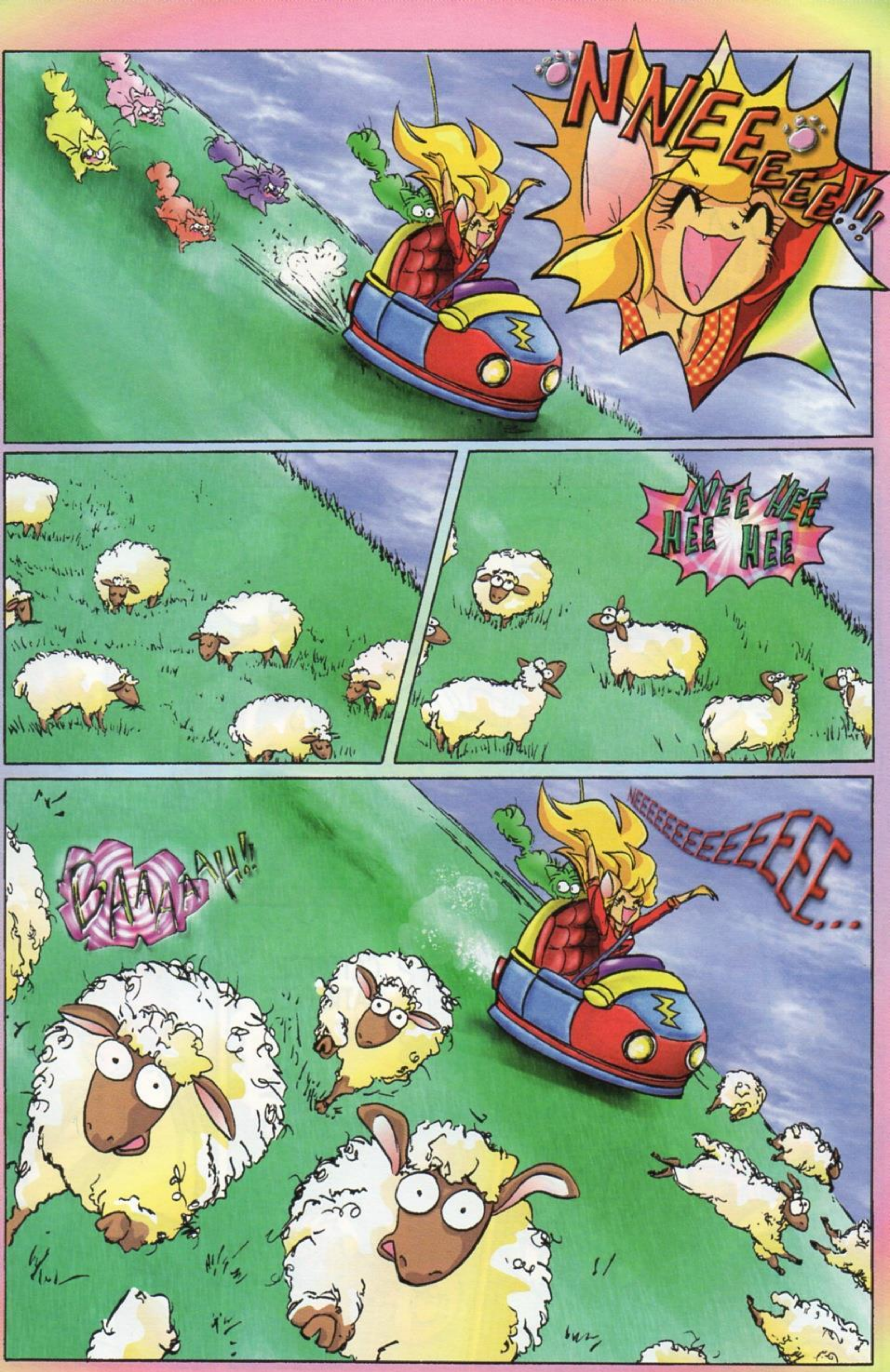
CRASH!

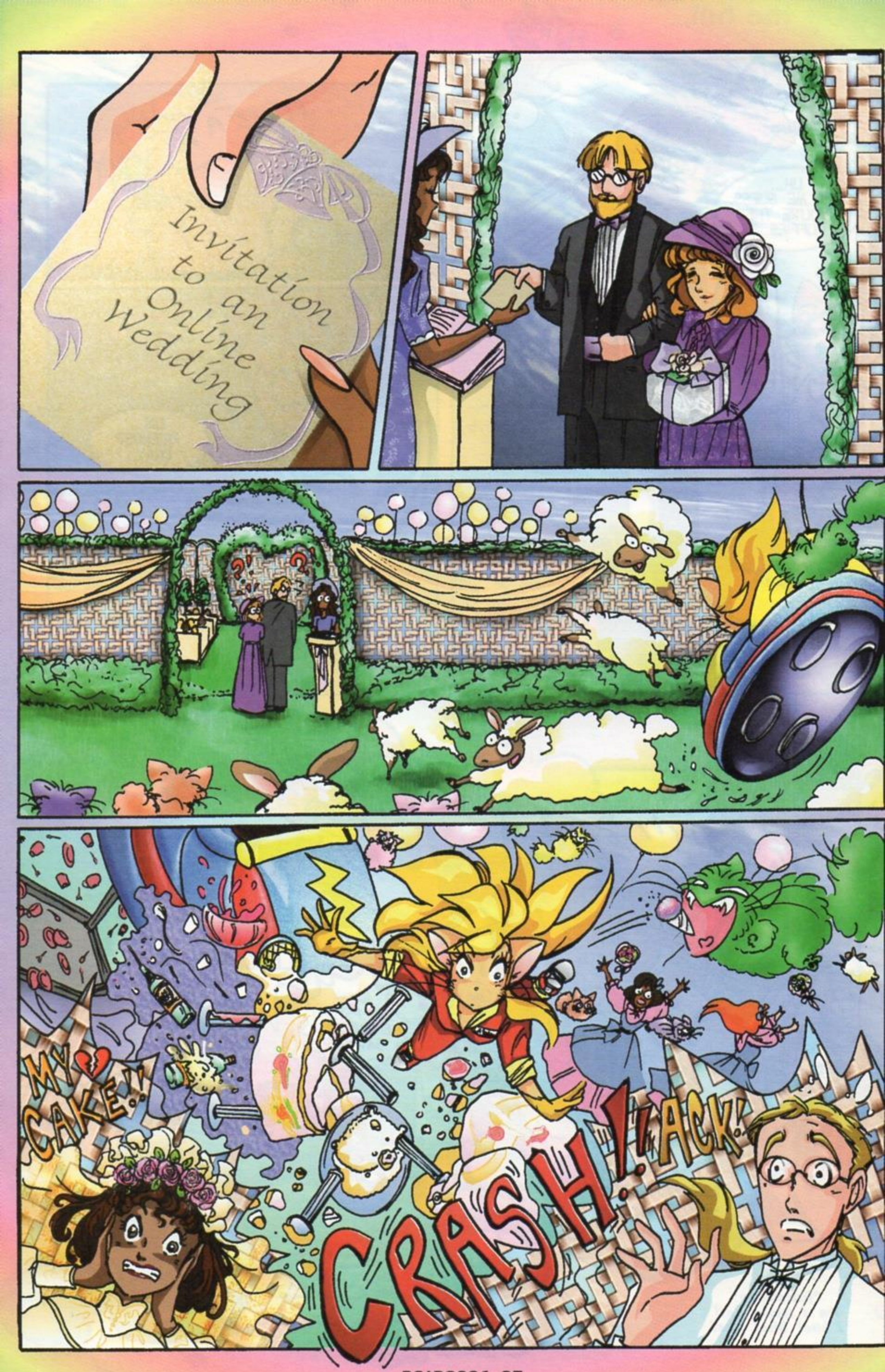
CATREECE! CATREECE! BAD CAT!

SLIDE

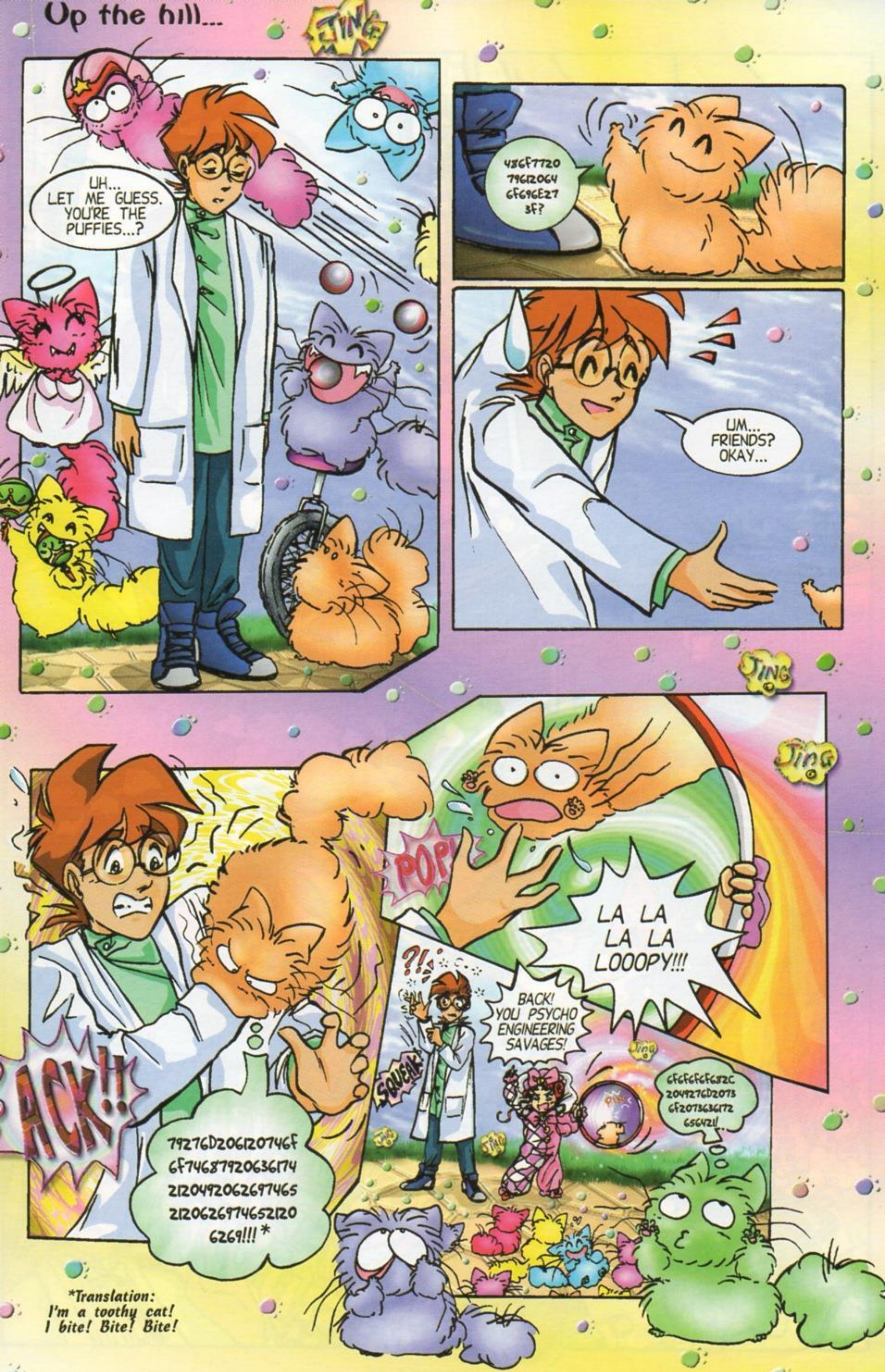
NEEEEE!!

HUH?


NNEEEEEE!!!
NEE HEE HEE HEE
NEEEEEEEEEEEEEE...
BAAAAAH!!


Invitation to an Online Wedding
MY CAKE!
CRASH!
ACK!

Up the hill...



*Translation:
I'm a toothy cat!
I bite! Bite! Bite!*

JING

WOBBLE!!

YCYFY CZIZI!!

INCREDIBLE SRINKING HOOP!

YCYFY CZIZI!!

YCYFY CZIZI!!

YCYFY CZIZI!!

OH, YEAH? TRY THIS! ACTIVATE: CARTOON SUPER SQUASH!

JING

STRETCH

PULL

TIE

PUNCHA PUNCHA

PUNCHA PUNCHA

Hmmm... PUFFY Punchball!!

TAKE THAT!!

COME ON! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE! YOU'RE ONLY MAKING THEM ANGRY!

JING

?! HUH

WAIT! DON'T TOUCH MY HAND!

SIGH!

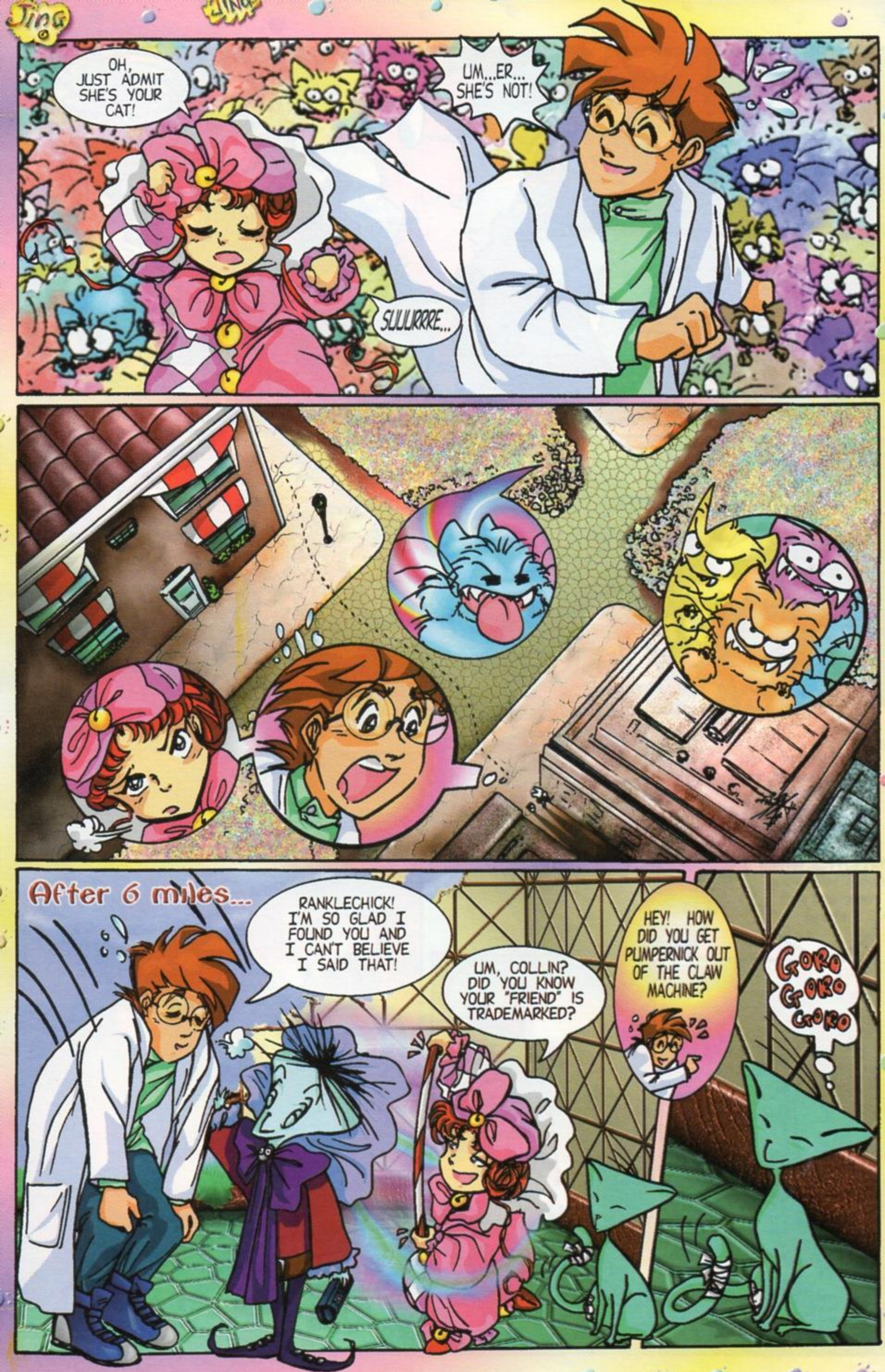
YOU DWEEB! I DIDN'T DEACTIVATE MY SUPER SQUASH YET!

?!

OOPS

Jing

JING
SIGH... NEWBIES! UNDO CARTOON SUPER SQUASH!
SNAP!!
JING
FWIP!
SEE? A TRUE eLiTe COMES PREPARED FOR EVERYTHING.
636168 616361!
OH YEAH, YA LITTLE PEANUT! ARE YOU PREPARED FOR A SECOND WAVE? YOU JUST UNDID ALL THE SQUASHED PUFFIES TOO!
42616 42043 61742 0 4A6 F6B65
PEANUT?!? WHY YOU, I'LL... HUH?!?
?!
Jing
MY NAME'S COLLIN...HUFF ...I CAN'T LEAVE YET...PUFF...MY FRIEND, CATREECE IS STILL ONLINE ...HUFF...I CAN'T LEAVE HER!
LET'S BLOW THIS CARTOON! HEY BUDDY! WHY DON'T YOU JUST SAY YOUR VERBAL ESCAPE CODE AND GET OUT OF HERE?
JING


OH, JUST ADMIT SHE'S YOUR CAT!
UM...ER... SHE'S NOT!
SLUURRRE...
After 6 miles...
RANKLECHICK! I'M SO GLAD I FOUND YOU AND I CAN'T BELIEVE I SAID THAT!
UM, COLLIN? DID YOU KNOW YOUR "FRIEND" IS TRADEMARKED?
HEY! HOW DID YOU GET PUMPERNICK OUT OF THE CLAW MACHINE?
GORO GORO GORO

PHEW!
Oogaly-poo! It was awful! Those Puffy creatures ate it!

THEN HOW DID YOU GET AWAY, OH TRADEMARKED KITTY?
Heh.
I kicked their butts!

Don't worry! I'll get us out of here! With one push of this remote, my mighty rocket, the H.M.S. Ketchi Ketchi will swoop over and pick us up!
BLEEP!
BLAMO!
Poo!!! Wrong button! I'm always doing that!!!
You should really label that remote.

Nice outfit...
THANKS, BUT DON'T GET FRESH.
I wouldn't dream of it. You still have a pulse.
Okey dokey.
OKAY, PLAN B! COME ON! IF WE CAN REACH MY BALLOON THEN MAYBE WE CAN FIND CATREECE TOO!
FLING
FLING
SKIP
WIERD!
JING
SKIP
SKIP

At Collin's balloon they find Maiko, Erk, & Rod...
ARE YOU GUYS ALRIGHT?
YEAH, BUT THOSE THINGS ATE ALL OUR OF HOMEWORK!
SNICKER
FLOP!
SOB!
I'M SO SCARED I FORGOT MY VERBAL ESCAPE CODE...AND... THEY...THEY ATE MY RETRO POLO COAT... AND IT WON'T RELOAD...

YEP! ONCE THE PUFFIES TAKE A BITE OUT OF SOMETHING, THE DATA GETS CORRUPTED. YOU'LL HAVE BUY THAT POLO THREAD FILE AGAIN FROM ITS ORIGINAL SOURCE. ALWAYS BACKUP YOUR CLOTHES, PAL.
!?
ACK, LILI!
ACK, MAIKO!!!
HEART STOP!

YOU TWO KNOW EACH OTHER?

YEP!

THIS IS MY TEN YEAR OLD SISTER, LILI! SHE LIVES WITH MY DAD IN SAN FRANCISCO!

YOU BLEW MY COVER! I'M AN INTERNET SUPER HERO!

HEY!? HOW DID YOU CHANGE YOUR EYE AND HAIR COLOR?

THE TVR'S HUMAN NERVOUS SYSTEM SCANNERS WOULDN'T ALLOW ME TO CHANGE MY SIZE AND SHAPE BUT I WAS ABLE TO FIND SOME UNDERGROUND PROGRAMS THAT LET ME ALTER SOME OF MY TOPICAL FEATURES. I JUST HACKED THEM INTO MY COSTUME.

AND WHO TAUGHT YOU TO HACK?!?

GET REAL! I LIVE IN SAN FRANCISCO!

PAT!

OOOH!!! THAT DARN CUSTODY BATTLE! I KNEW I SHOULD HAVE PICKED DAD!

COOL! PUMPERNICK JUST BARFED UP A PAIR OF SHOES!

Excuse me.

Boo-Zen Action Ware!

Oh goody, they're done! Isn't it neat? Long ago I genetically engineered Pumpernick so that his hairballs will chemically respond to the special molecular bonding diets I prepare for him.

Thanks to Collin's Boo-Zen idea I was able to whip up some cat food that, when combined with stomach hairballs, would solidify in Pumpernick's stomach and become Boo-Zen two-tone Wingtips!

All you have to do is put them on, make a boo-boo face, say "Boo-Zen activate" and then say what it is that's making you sad, and the universe will heed your theory of "Manipulation of the physical state of the universe by means of boo-boo face!"

See? As long as it thinks you're sad the universe will listen to you!

Wasn't my idea.

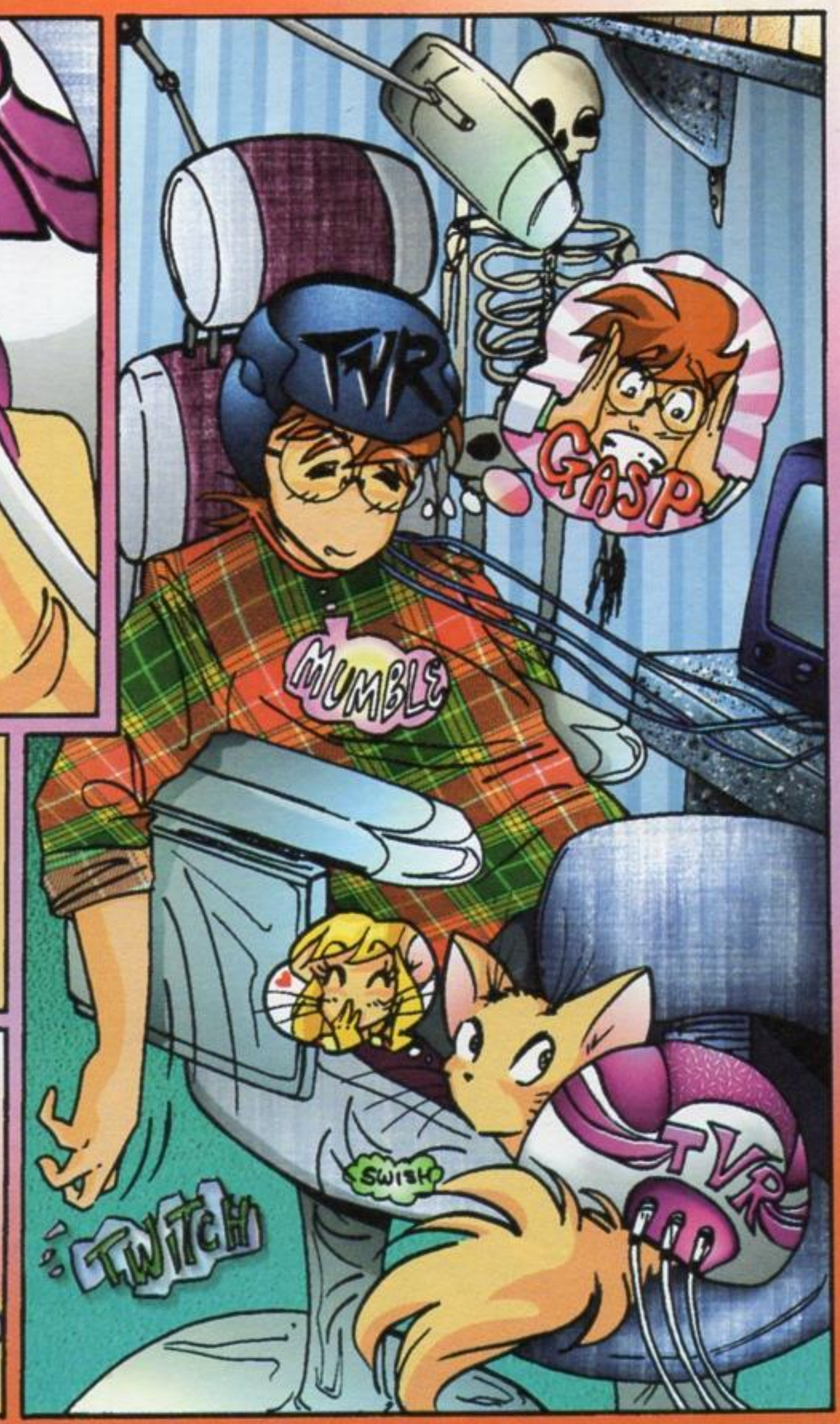
*AIC: Artificially Intelligent Computer.

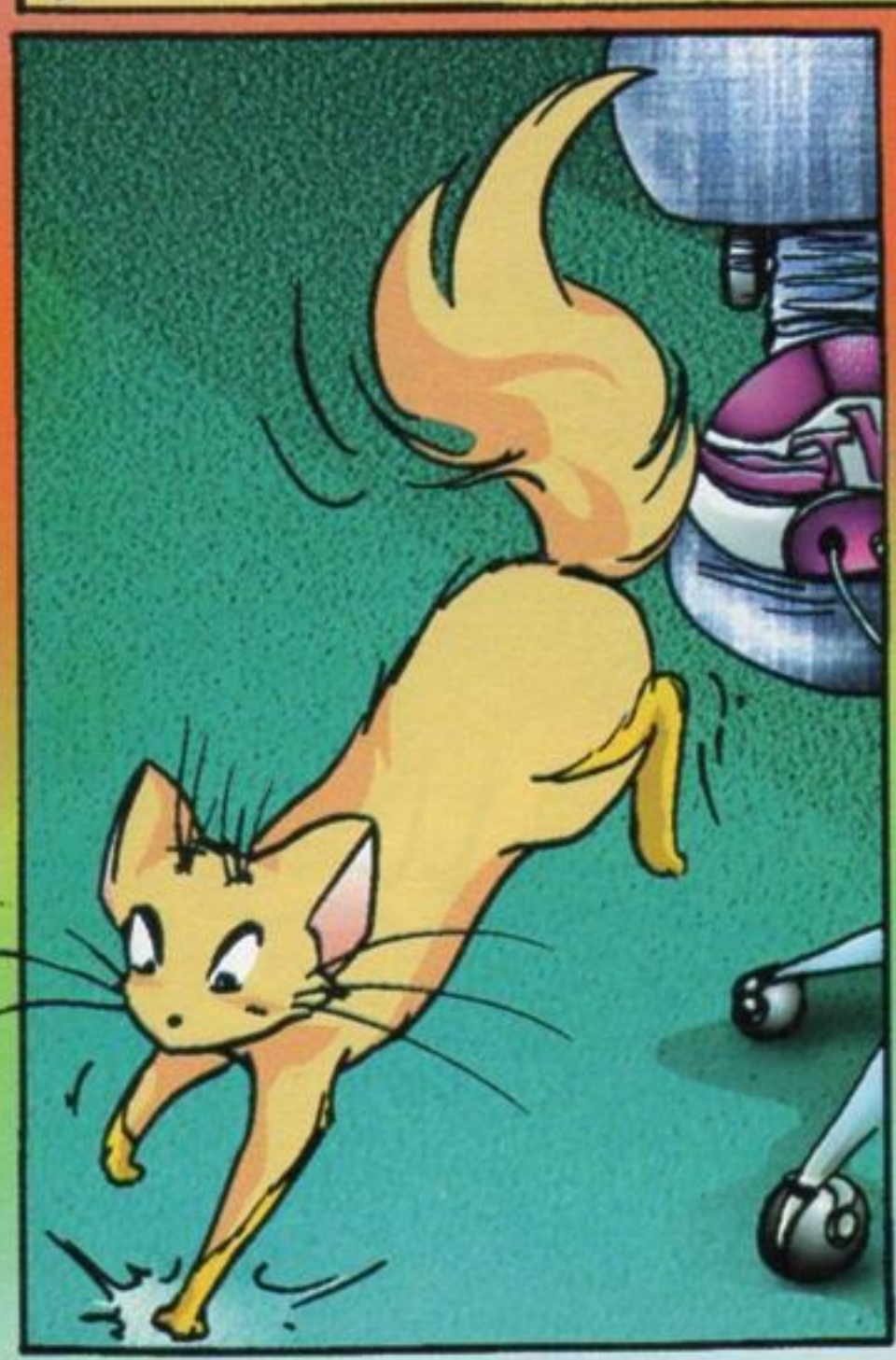
CAN WE PLEASE DISCUSS THIS IN THE AIR?? THOSE HORRIBLE THINGS ARE BACK!!
UM, COLLIN, HURRY UP!
YEAH...
I GOTTA FIND CATREECE! DO YOU SEE HER?
NOPE.
SHUT UP, PEANUT!
WHO?
WHO?
I DON'T SEE HER EITHER.
HIS CAT!
Oogaly...
I'm a cat.
NEE!
FTT!
THERE SHE IS!! I SEE HER! CATREECE!

*Catreece's verbal escape code.

STVR

NEE!


TVR
GASP
MUMBLE
SWISH
TWITCH
STVR



SCRATCH
SCRATCH
SWISH
SCRATCH

OH, MY GOSH! SHE'S GONE!! THEY ATE CATREECE!!!
OH, NO!
BUT...IF THEY ATE HER ONLINE ID, I CAN JUST PLUG HER BACK INTO THE TVR AND MAKE HER A NEW ONE RIGHT? NO! I CAN'T! I DON'T KNOW HOW! THE TVR IS SUPPOSED TO SEND A PULSE THROUGH YOUR BODY'S NERVOUS SYSTEM AND MEASURE ITS PROPORTIONS TO COMBINE THEM WITH THE BASIC HUMAN MODEL IN ITS MEMORY...BUT CATREECE IS A GLITCH AND I NEVER MADE A BACKUP OF HER ID! I MAY NEVER BE ABLE TO TALK TO HER AGAIN...SHE'LL JUST BE MY SIMPLE HOUSECAT...AGAIN...
SIGH...

CATREECE! I WILL AVENGE YOU! BWAAAAAAAA HAHAHAHA!!! BOO-ZEN ACTIVATE: OH, I'M SO SAD THAT IT'S NOT RAINING ANVILS ON THE PUFFIES!
HEY...
IT KINDA TINGLES...

She's Back!

OMG!!

I'M THE KITTY!

Hello.

SNAP!!

HUH?!

CATREECE?!?

UH, OH! WE'RE STARTING TO SINK NOW!

THROW SOME SANDBAGS OVER!

SAND

NO! I NEED THOSE!

AUGH! ANOTHER CAT CREATURE! TOSS HER OUT BEFORE SHE EATS US!

PUSH!

OH MOMMY

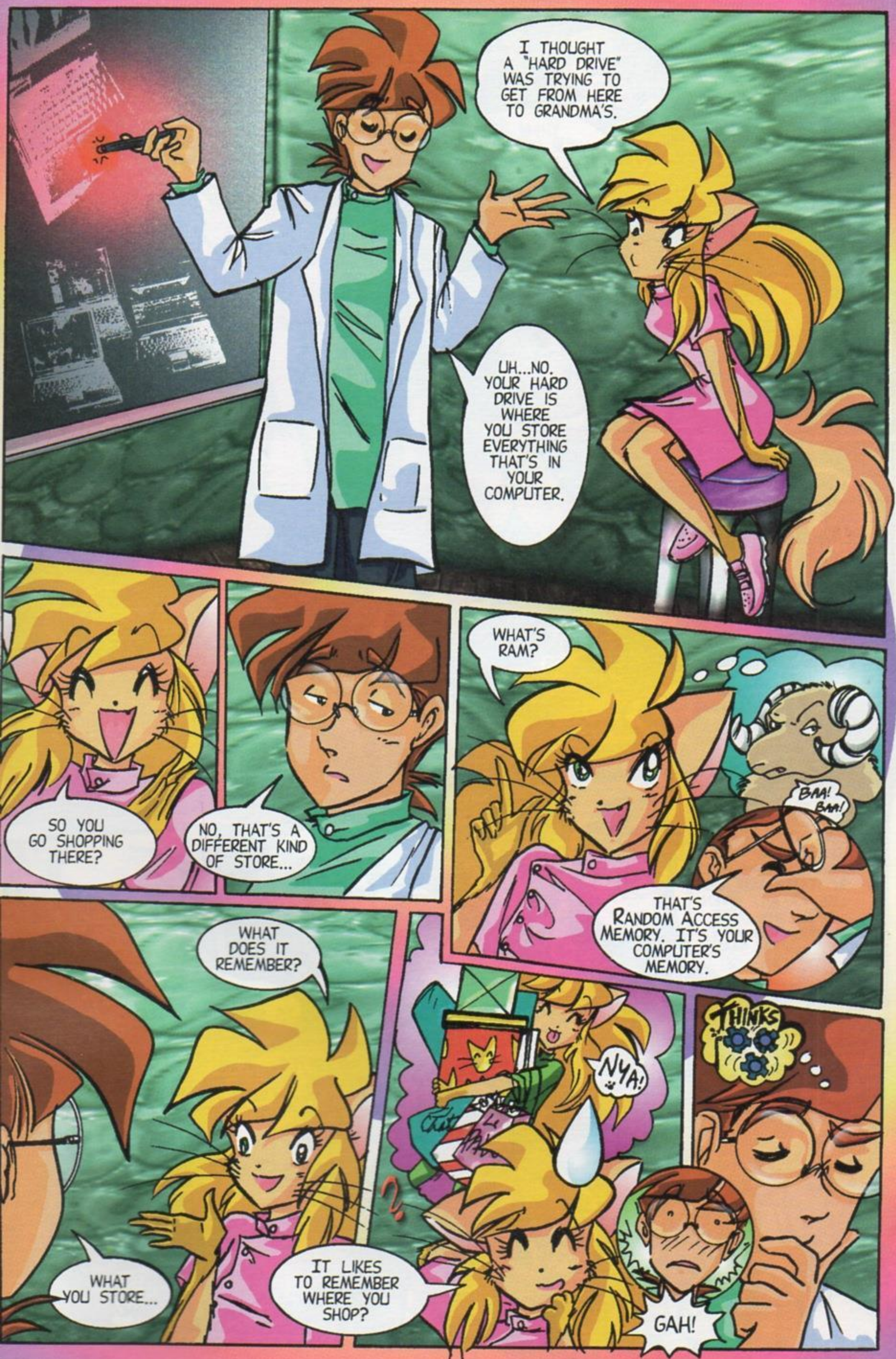
OH, SHUT UP!

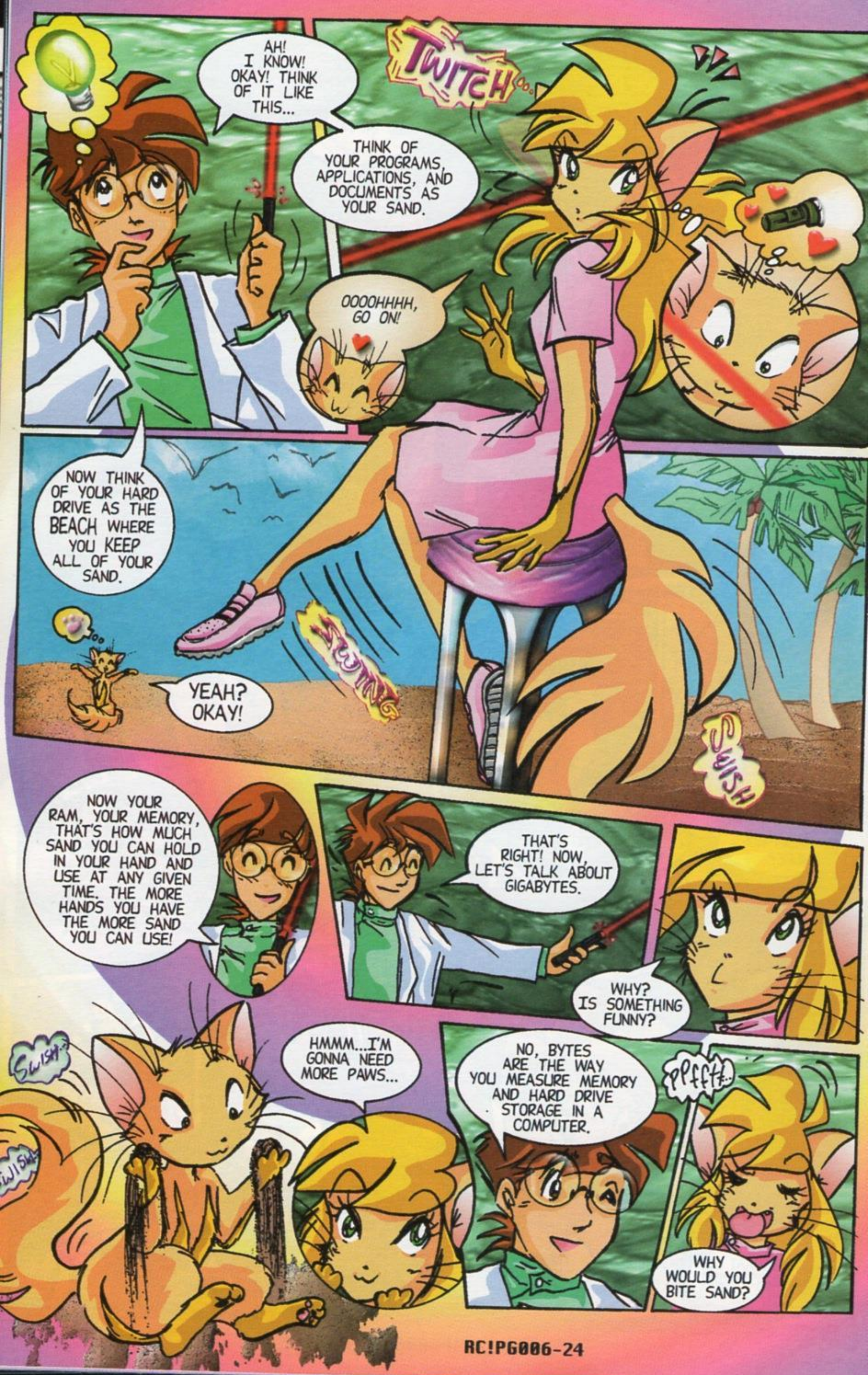
TEE HEE!
OOPS
AAAAAAAAHHHH!!!
AAAAAAAA

EEP...
MOAN
FLOP
WELL...SO MUCH FOR OUR HOMEWORK! THINK MS. NAJUM WILL BELIEVE US WHEN WE TELL HER THE PUFFY CATS ATE IT?
I DON'T KNOW, BUT... WHAT DO WE DO WITH HIM?

Much Later...

Ftt! Ftt!


I THOUGHT A "HARD DRIVE" WAS TRYING TO GET FROM HERE TO GRANDMA'S.
UH...NO. YOUR HARD DRIVE IS WHERE YOU STORE EVERYTHING THAT'S IN YOUR COMPUTER.
SO YOU GO SHOPPING THERE?
NO, THAT'S A DIFFERENT KIND OF STORE...
WHAT'S RAM?
BAA! BAA!
THAT'S RANDOM ACCESS MEMORY. IT'S YOUR COMPUTER'S MEMORY.
WHAT DOES IT REMEMBER?
WHAT YOU STORE...
IT LIKES TO REMEMBER WHERE YOU SHOP?
NYA!
THINKS
GAH!


AH! I KNOW! OKAY! THINK OF IT LIKE THIS...
THINK OF YOUR PROGRAMS, APPLICATIONS, AND DOCUMENTS AS YOUR SAND.
TWITCH
OOOOHHHH, GO ON!
NOW THINK OF YOUR HARD DRIVE AS THE BEACH WHERE YOU KEEP ALL OF YOUR SAND.
YEAH? OKAY!
SWISH
NOW YOUR RAM, YOUR MEMORY, THAT'S HOW MUCH SAND YOU CAN HOLD IN YOUR HAND AND USE AT ANY GIVEN TIME. THE MORE HANDS YOU HAVE THE MORE SAND YOU CAN USE!
THAT'S RIGHT! NOW, LET'S TALK ABOUT GIGABYTES.
WHY? IS SOMETHING FUNNY?
SWISH
HMMM...I'M GONNA NEED MORE PAWS...
NO, BYTES ARE THE WAY YOU MEASURE MEMORY AND HARD DRIVE STORAGE IN A COMPUTER.
PPFFFT...
WHY WOULD YOU BITE SAND?

HUH?
IF MEMORY AND HARD DRIVE ARE SAND THEN WHY WOULD I WANT TO BITE THEM?

UM...BECAUSE YOU'RE A SAND CRAB.
I AM?!?

NODS
YES, AND CONSUMING SAND HELPS YOU DIGEST THE TINY SHRIMPS YOU EAT.

TUNA!
BLINK
WHAT?
I LIKE TUNA

OKAY! TUNA!

ANYWAYS, WE MEASURE THIS...UH...SAND IN BYTES AND WHEN WE HAVE MORE BYTES IT BECOMES KILOBYTES, MEGABYTES, GIGABYTES, AND TERABYTES. KILO IS A THOUSAND, MEGA IS A MILLION, GIGA IS A BILLION, AND TERA IS A TRILLION.

BUT I'M GOING TO BE A FAT LITTLE CRAB KITTY!!
NO. SAND HAS NO CALORIES.
WELL, THAT'S A RELIEF.
Pffew

GREAT! YOU'RE REALLY LEARNING NOW! NOW WE'LL MOVE ON TO PROCESSOR SPEED. THE PROCESSOR IS THE BRAIN OF THE COMPUTER AND THE FASTER THE PROCESSOR, THE FASTER YOU CAN GET THINGS DONE. PROCESSOR SPEED IS MEASURED IN HERTZ.

SOUNDS PAINFUL!!

THAT'S RIGHT! THE SAND IS HOT AND IT HURTS! SO THE FASTER YOU CAN RUN ACROSS THE SAND, SCOOPING UP BILLIONS OF BYTES, THE FASTER YOU CAN GET BACK TO THE SAFE COOL OCEAN WHERE YOU CAN SPEND YOUR DAYS EATING TUNA FISH. OHHHH! BUT WATCH OUT FOR THE NASTY JELLY FISH AND SHARKS! AND JEEZ!!! HAVE YOU EVER SEEN A MAN-O-WAR? THEY'RE HIDEOUS! AND BLOWFISH ARE POISONOUS TO EAT!! IT'S A DANGEROUS PLACE IN THE OCEAN!! GET OUT WHILE YOU CAN!!

?

WHAT DID THAT HAVE TO DO WITH COM-PUTERS?

I HAVE NO IDEA.

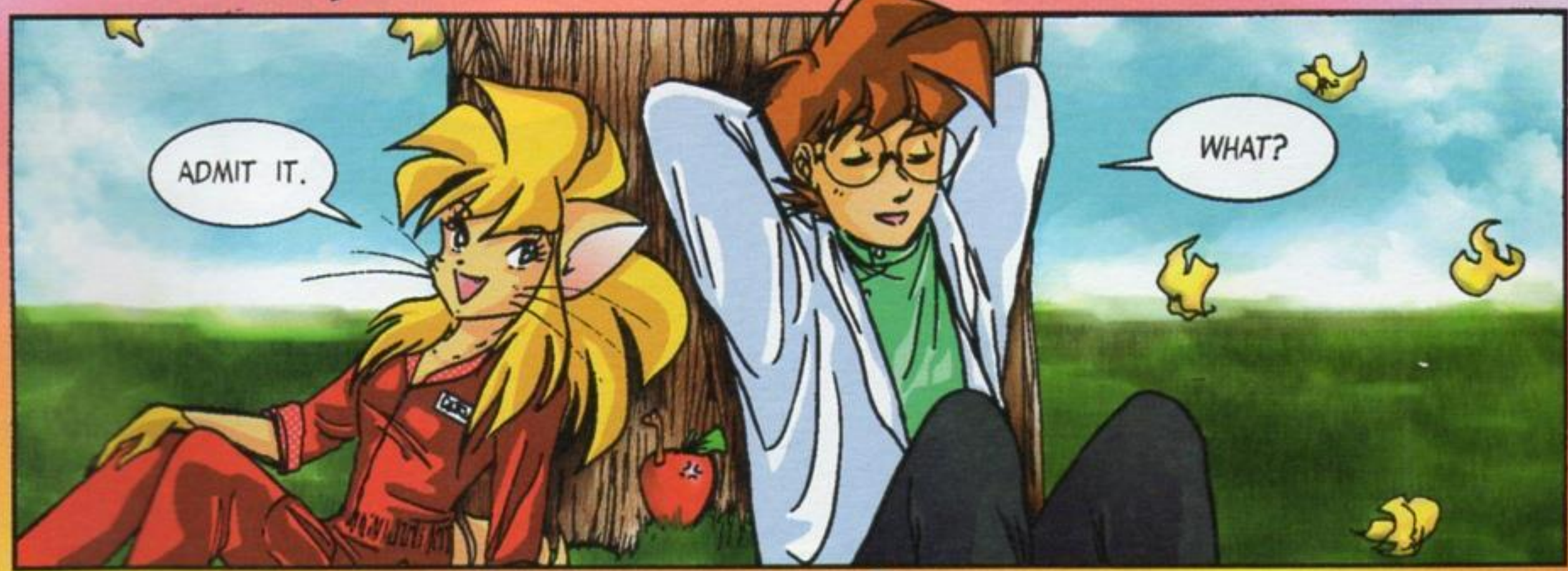
SQUEEK...

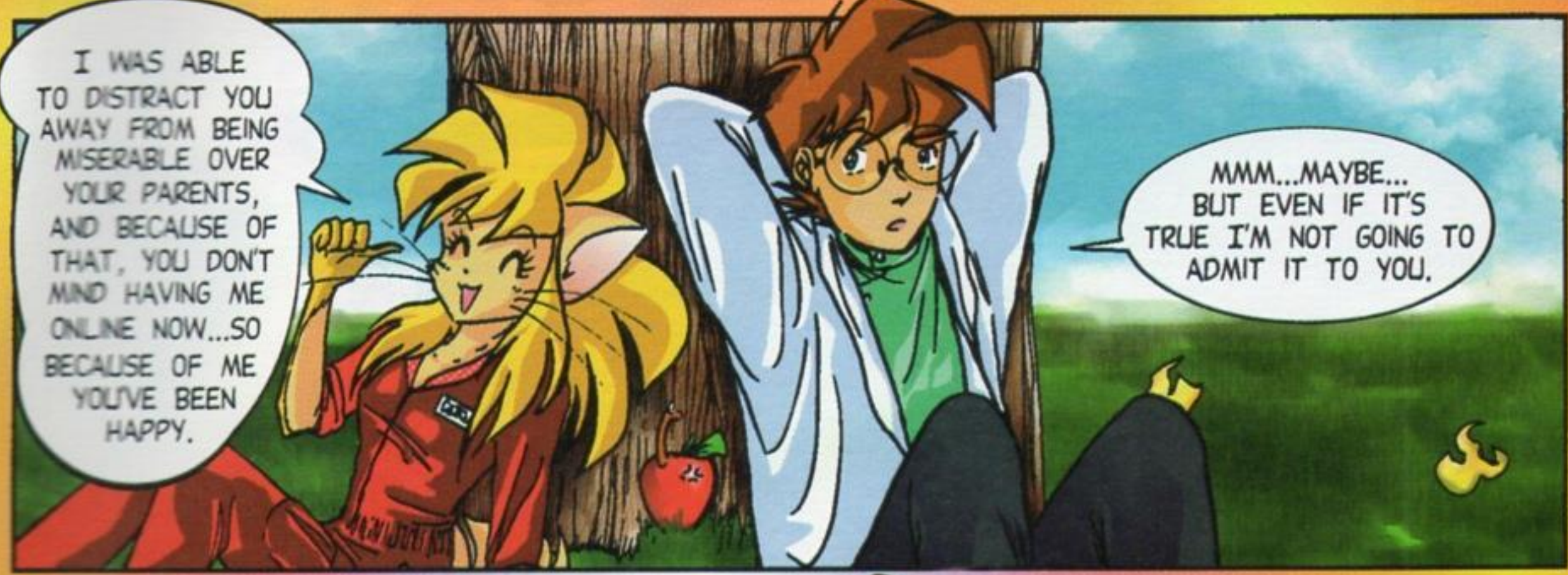
NOD

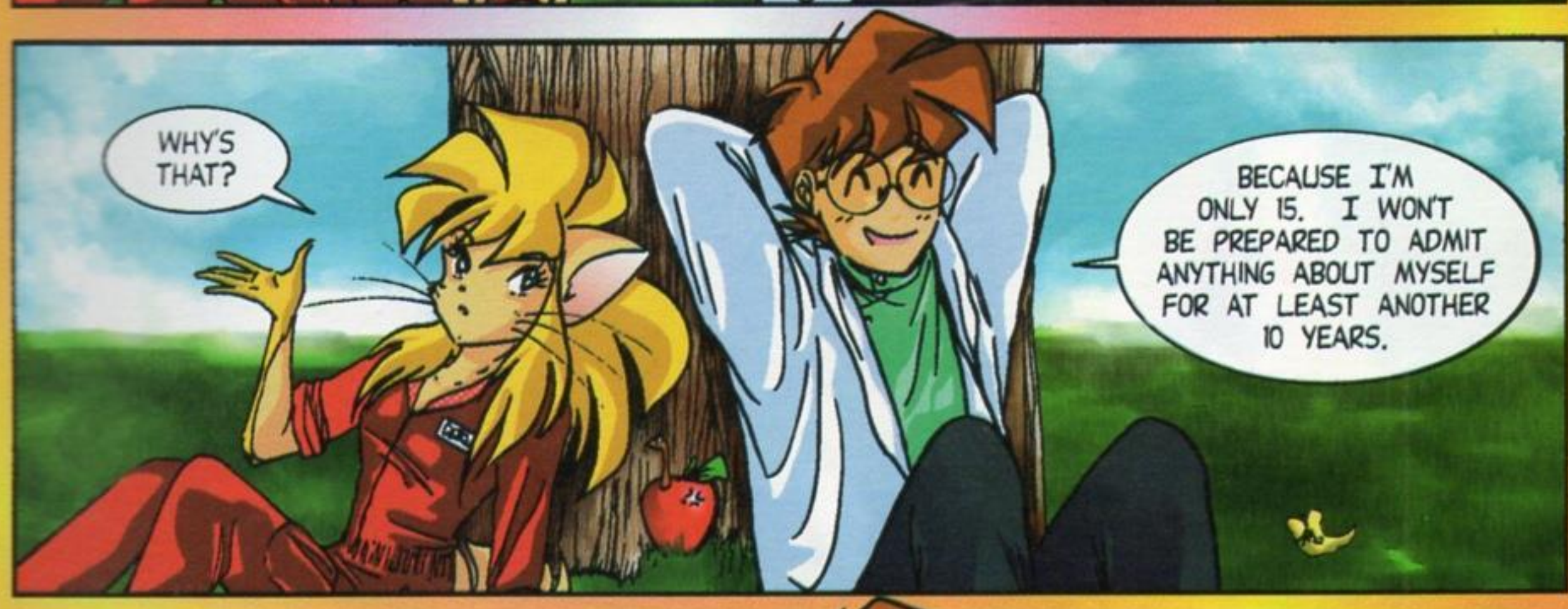
NEE?...

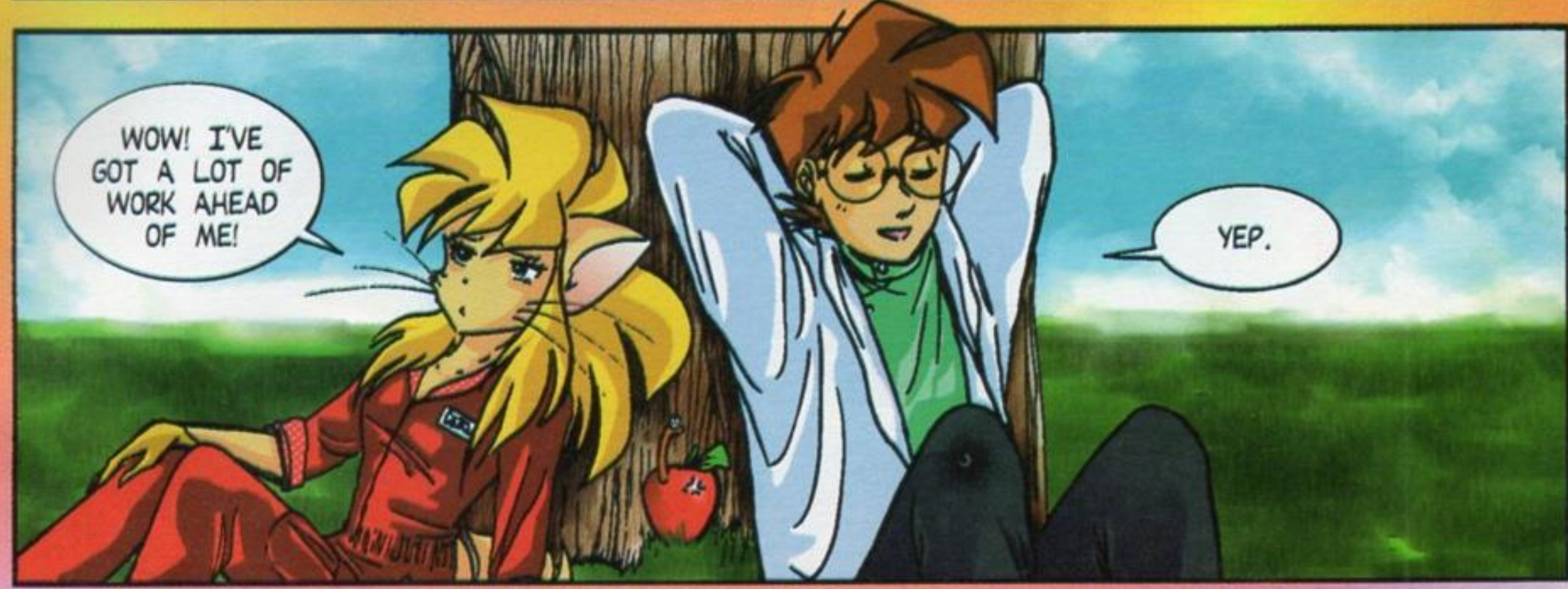
Ftt Nee!

And Finally...









RC! THE END!